

Remarks/Arguments:

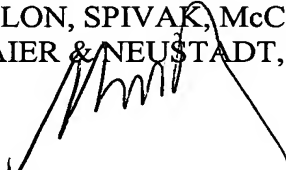
Favorable consideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are pending; Claims 15-31 have been canceled; Claims 1, 3-7, and 11-14 are amended. The Specification has been amended to edit minor informalities.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for examination. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
GJM:RTP:KDP:dmr

Gregory J. Maier
Registration No: 25,599
Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099